



## Marlene Gourley

April 7, 1950 - February 24, 2021

Marlene Ann Fisher Gourley of Mount Holly passed away on February 24, 2021 at Virtua Memorial Hospital. She was 70.

Born in Vineland, NJ, the daughter of the late Samuel and Edna S. Fisher, Marlene grew up with a love of learning, which led her to a long career in education. She was quite a linguist, fluent in Spanish and conversational Italian, French, and Portuguese. This fondness and talent for languages brought her to her first job in education, upon her graduation from Glassboro State College in 1972, as a Spanish teacher at Oakcrest High School in Mays Landing, New Jersey. She continued her educational journey earning a Master's Degree in Education and Language Arts from Trenton State College. She then advanced to a 30-year career with the New Jersey State Department of Education, overseeing bilingual education and the creation of state assessments, until she retired in 2002.

Marlene had a flair for fashion and design. Taking a break from education to explore retail, she co-owned and ran a dress shop, "Bellissimo". She also enjoyed spending time creating decorative wreaths and bargello needle point. Having compassion for animals in need, she rescued several dogs with her husband, Ted, embracing them as an important part of the family.

Marlene is survived by her husband Dr. Theodore J. Gourley, Jr.; three children, Katrina Gourley of Pasadena, California, Theodore J. Gourley, III of Mount Holly and Jonathan S. Gourley of Mount Holly; her granddaughter; Isabelle Gourley. Marlene is also survived by three sisters, Sandra Ferrara

and Deborah Fisher of Vineland, N.J. and Lorraine Geary of Richmond, California, and many nieces, nephews, two goddaughters, and her loyal dog, Chauncey.

Marlene was ecology-minded. Therefore, she wished to be cremated and have her final resting place under the roots of a tree, always mindful of her environmental impact on our planet.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Smile Train (<https://www.smiletrain.org/>) and Wounded Warriors (<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>).

Arrangements by the Perinchief Chapels, Mount Holly.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marlene Gourley*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



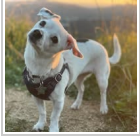
“ *Marlene Gourley*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *I just learned about Mar's passing. I am so sad. Omg. We spent almost ten years together at NJDOE. Some of my best memories involve Mar and our trips to Iowa. The best was when we smelled nail polish as our luggage came out. Mar had packed it and it exploded. We were laughing so hard we hurt. Man she could shop too. She would run in and out of stores with a luggage cart. We would all go eat, she would continue shipping. We made sure they got us both stinky bagels for breakfast. She had the hotel staff tape general hospital for her and we would watch together in her room every night. I marveled at the containers of q tips and cotton balls she schlepped from home we always told Mar we were leaving 1/2 hour before we actually had to. I still think of her every time I see Gevalia coffee. My sincere condolences to those whom she loved. I loved her and will treasure our times*

**stacy shack** - April 07, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ 9 files added to the album *Life Highlights*



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**Katrina Gourley** - March 25, 2021 at 04:03 AM

“ My dear friend Marlene Ann Fisher Gourley and I met at the Trenton Board of Education and worked together at the New Jersey State Department of Education in Trenton for decades.

Marlene loved Spanish and through the years we worked together in projects even when we were not in the same Division. There was a new initiative at the Department, and we had a deadline to meet but we also had other pressing responsibilities as well. It was a Friday afternoon and I said: “Mar, let me take all the documents home with me. Finish what you are doing and come to my house. Today is Dave’s Poker Friday. After dinner we can sit down and worked uninterrupted until we finish” and so we did. After that we used to say: Nobody would believe we were working on the translations of the No Child Left Behind Project pamphlets passed three o’clock in the morning today.

Mar had her idiosyncrasies: She liked to use the oil blotting sheets sold at Lee’s Pharmacy in Ewing several times a day When she was running low, she used to ask our colleague Janice Taylor Bacon, who used to live in Ewing, if she could pick up for her a couple of packages.

We both used to use the same seamstress. Her name was Reiko, a delightful Japanese woman who lived in the same town I used to live, Hamilton Township. Well, often times, Marlene was running out of time and she would ask me if on my way to or from home I could drop or pick up a piece of clothing from Reiko’s home.

During certain times of the year, we had to go to monitor schools and often car pooled. If you were ever in Mar’s car, you know that she will put lipstick on or brush up a new coat of mascara at the traffic lights.

Janice, Marlene and I used to celebrate our birthdays. Our favorite place to go for a Filet mignon steak sandwich lunch was going to an old Steak House across from the train station in Trenton. It was hng out for politicians and state big wigs. One had to go through a heavy smoke curtain before one could get into a table. They had the very best sandwiches and we always had a great time as well as catching a glimpse at a famous person.

Marlene used to love a good thick Bowl of Chili. However, she didn’t

*like beans. So, she would painstakingly take out every single bean but by the time she had finished her chore, she would have to send it back to be reheated. She loved hot food, HOT and cold food COLD.*

*One day I am in the elevator and Marlene gets on and sees me with my glasses and asked "Magda since when are you wearing glasses?" Oh for a few months but my daughter Rosalyn moved to Hoboken and I have a hard time putting them on. However, I have the case in my purse just in case I need to use them. Well let's go to the 7th Floor Ladies Room and I will fit the lenses in your eyes. After several attempts she said: You know what the problem is? These suckers (the lenses) are very large and your eyes are very small. I know Mar. I told her "that is why I decided that I am not going to wear them anymore". This was a rare moment when she would quit an assignment.*

*Marlene was crazy about her granddaughter Isabelle. We had fun at the shower. My second granddaughters' name is Isabella Rosa which we call "Bella".*

*After we both retired, we tried to get together as often as we could but, after I moved to OH my life got a bit more complicated with the grandchildren and traveling. However, we always chatted on the phone very late in the evenings.*

*I knew she was dealing with her constant pain and busy taking care of herself and Ted. Often times she will say "Sweetie, call me later. I am tired now but please don't forget to call me". I called her last on 2/28 and just like the last few times, I didn't get an answer nor was my call return. God Bless Your Soul Dear friend. I know we will see each other again. The World has been a better place because you lived in it.*

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**Rosa Magdalena Gelaszus** - March 06, 2021 at 02:47 PM

SF

*Thank you so much, Magda, for writing this. I can tell how much my beautiful sister meant to you and rest assured that you were considered the dearest of her friends. I loved reading your memories of her little quirky ways. Most were very endearing and she was unique in many ways. My sisters Lorraine and Deborah and I are having a hard time living without her. I miss her so very much. Thank you again.*

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**Sandra Ferrara** - March 26, 2021 at 05:42 PM

SS

*Omg. I just received this and I can't believe Mar is gone. We spent almost ten years together at NJDOE. Some of my best memories involve Mar and our trips to Iowa. The best was when we smelled nail polish as our luggage came out. Mar had packed it and it exploded. We were laughing so hard we hurt. Man she could shop. We made sure they got us both stinky bagels. She had the hotel staff tape general hospital for her and we would watch together in her room every night. I marveled at the containers of q tips and cotton balls she schlepped from home we always told Mar we were leaving 1/2 hour before we actually had to. I still think of her every time I see Gevalia coffee. My sincere condolences to Ted, who she clearly adored, and her three kids who she bragged about constantly. I loved her and will treasure our times.*

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**stacy shack** - April 07, 2021 at 03:17 PM